GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4642
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
POPULATION CONTROL
GADDAM GANGA REDDY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to supply of sub-standard contraceptives to States, particularly to Uttar Pradesh the State Governments are unable to achieve the target set for population control under the family welfare programme;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure population effective check on population in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): No, Sir. The supplies of contraceptives are made to the states on the basis of norms which prescribe that at the time of inspection, the stocks offered for inspection should not have crossed more than 1/6th of the total life and should have a total shelf life not less than 4 years (48 months) from the date of manufacture.

In addition, the contraceptives being supplied are meticulously tested first at the manufacturer`s end and thereafter at designated laboratories authorized by the Government. A network of Regional Directors at field level are authorized to conduct field tests (also known as Stage-ll test) of supplies on a random basis.

The States are fully authorized to return the stocks if these are found sub-standard or of short expiry within a month of such instances coming to their notice. In such cases, the entire batch of the said contraceptive is to be replaced by the manufacturers/suppliers at their cost.

Since first April 1996, the Family Welfare Programme is being implemented all over India on the basis of Target Free Approach.The demand of the community for quality services is the driving force behind the programme making it a people`s programme. This approach is now called the Community Needs Asessment Approach (CNAA).There are no targets fixed for States including Uttar Pradesh.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The Government of India has already adopted a comprehensive National Population Policy, 2000 that has brought in an integrated approach to the provisioning of reproductive and child health care. The birth rate in Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere is already declining. The steps taken to bring down birth rate are:-

i. An integrated and comprehensive programme of Reproductive and Child Health, which includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception.

ii. Publicity of fertility regulation methods, which include sterilization both for male and female, spacing methods namely, IUD insertions, oral pills and condoms.

iii. Fulfillment of unmet needs for quality reproductive health services through provision of integrated service delivery at village levels.

iv. Popularising No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV), which is considered safe, simple and painless procedure of vasectomy, so as to ensure male participation.

v. Creating awareness about the benefits of small family through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Programmes.

vi. Provision of additional inputs in weaker States/districts, to strengthen the primary health care infrastructure.

vii. Inclusion of diverse health care providers.

viii. Community based social marketing of contraceptives.

ix. Giving focussed attention to eight demographically weak States namely, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa by creating an Empowered Action Group in the Department of Family Welfare to monitor and implement Health & Family Welfare Programmes in these States.